AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A   media   data   coding   and multiplexing apparatus comprising:

a coding section for coding a plurality of media data to output a plurality of coded media data, respectively;

a multiplexing section for packeting the plurality of coded media data output from the coding section to generate a plurality of packet strings and multiplexing the plurality of packet strings with each other to output a multiplexed packet string; and

a parameter setting section for selectively adding a parameter to the multiplexed packet string output from the multiplexing section to output ~~a result~~ an output multiplex stream.

2.   (Currently Amended) A   media   data   coding   and multiplexing system comprising:

a video signal dividing circuit for dividing a video signal into a plurality of divided data;

a plurality of media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses each comprising: a coding section for coding a plurality of media data including one of the plurality of divided data to output a plurality of coded data; a multiplexing section for packeting the plurality of coded data output from the coding section to generate a plurality of packet strings and multiplexing the plurality of packet strings with each other to generate a multiplexed packet string; and a parameter setting section for selectively adding a parameter to the multiplexed packet string output from the multiplexing section and outputting ~~a result~~ an output multiplex stream; and

a control circuit for generating a control signal for controlling each of the plurality of coding and multiplexing apparatuses.

3. (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing system as claimed in claim 2 wherein in each of the plurality of media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses,

if no signal is input from any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses and no signal is output to any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses, the parameter

setting section sets the parameter in the output multiplex stream.

4.   (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing system as claimed in claim 2 wherein,

in each of the plurality of media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses,

if no signal is input from any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses and a signal is output to any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses, the parameter setting section sets only a parameter in the output multiplex stream not requiring continuity.

5.   (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing system as claimed in claim 2 wherein

in each of the plurality of media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses,

if a signal is input from any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses and no signal is output to any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses, the parameter setting section sets the parameter in the output

multiplex stream containing unset portions in any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses.

6. (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing system as claimed in claim 2 wherein

in each of the media data coding and multiplexing ~~apparatus~~apparatuses,

if a signal is input from any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatus and a signal is output to any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatus, the parameter setting section sets only a parameter in the output multiplex stream not requiring continuity excluding an input from any other media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses.

7. (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing system as claimed in claim 2 wherein

in each of the media data coding and multiplexing ~~apparatus~~apparatuses,

the parameter setting section sets continuity index or clock reproduction information in multiplex units as the parameter.

8. (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing system as claimed in claim 2 wherein

in each of the media data coding and multiplexing ~~apparatus~~apparatuses,

an input of one of the plurality of media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses is coded data of a part of video and the multiplexing section inputs the coded data from a plurality of media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses, and

the parameter setting section sets a parameter <u>in the output multiplex stream</u> containing unset portions in input streams and outputs a coded stream of the whole video.

9. (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing system as claimed in claim 2 wherein

in each of the media data coding and multiplexing ~~apparatus~~apparatuses,

an input of one of the plurality of media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses is a multiplex media stream containing video, audio, <u>and</u> data, ~~etc.,~~ and the multiplexing section ~~inputs~~ <u>receives</u> the multiplex media stream from ~~a plurality of~~ <u>other</u> media data coding and multiplexing apparatuses, and

the parameter setting section sets a parameter in the output multiplex stream containing unset portions in the input streams and outputs a multiplex media coded stream containing a plurality of video, audio, and data, etc.

10. (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the multiplexing section performs the multiplexing in conformity with MPEG2 system standard, and wherein

the parameter setting section sets a parameter in the output multiplex stream conforming to the MPEG 2 standard and outputs a multiplex media data coded stream.

11. (Original) The media data coding and multiplexing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the multiplexing section performs the multiplexing in conformity with MPEG4 system standard, and wherein

the parameter setting section sets a parameter in the output multiplex stream conforming to the MPEG 4 standard and outputs a multiplex media data coded stream.

12. (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the multiplexing section performs the multiplexing in conformity with ITU-T H.223 standard, and wherein

the parameter setting section sets a parameter in the output multiplex stream conforming to the ITU-T H.223 standard and outputs a multiplex media data coded stream.

13. (Currently Amended) The media data coding and multiplexing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the multiplexing section multiplexes in conformity with ITU-T H.225 standard, and wherein

the parameter setting section sets a parameter in the output multiplex stream conforming to the ITU-T H.225 standard and outputs a multiplex media data coded stream.

14. (Currently Amended) A media data coding and multiplexing method comprising:

coding a plurality of media data to output a plurality of coded media data, respectively;

packeting the plurality of coded media data to generate a plurality of packet strings and multiplexing the plurality of packet strings with each other to generate a multiplexed packet string; and

selectively adding a parameter to the multiplexed packet string to output ~~a result~~ an output multiplex stream.